

Amendment dated February 12, 2010

Reply to Office Action of November 12, 2009

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1 and 15-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 15-21 are amended and claims 2-14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Office Action objected to claims 3-6 for informalities. As noted above, claims 3-6 have been canceled. Accordingly, the objection is moot.

The Office Action rejected claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. As noted above, claims 9-13 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection is moot.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tack, U.S. Patent No. 6,485,271 in view of Meier et al. (hereinafter “Meier”). The features

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of claim 14 have been added to independent claim 1, and claims 2-14 have been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it applies to claims 1 and 15-21.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a supporting device including a plurality of coil springs that connects the compressor main body to the casing, wherein each of the plurality of coil springs includes tightly wound end coils fixed to one surface of the compressor main body and to one surface of the casing, respectively, and an inner coil having at least one part which is tightly wound and positioned between the end coils, wherein the inner coil comprises a first elastic part wound at predetermined pitches from the end coil which is fixed to the one surface of the compressor main body, a second elastic part wound at predetermined pitches from the end coil which is fixed to the one surface of the casing, wherein the predetermined pitches of the first elastic part and the predetermined pitches of the second elastic part are different, and a mass part tightly wound between the first and second elastic parts. Tack and Meier, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least such features of independent claim 1, or the claimed combination.

That is, the Office Action, on page 3, asserted that Tack discloses all of the claimed features of independent claim 1, except “Tack [ ] fail[s] to disclose an inner coil having at least one part which is tightly wound and positioned between [ ] end coils.” The Examiner then asserted that:

Meier discloses a spring that has two end coils (end coils are interpreted to be as shown on Fig 9, the far left and right, not including the transition inside of each of them and note: only including 3 “winds”, found by counting 3 of the cross-

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sectional up/down pieces, seen in Fig 9a]) with a tightly wound portion between (30). This represents a spring known in the art to be usable to gain certain non-linear spring characteristics.

The Examiner then concluded that “it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Tack in view of Meier in order to have non-linear spring characteristics, known to be useful for attenuating in the art.” Further, in the rejection of claim 14, the Office Action asserted that from an end to a portion 30 of Meier (disclosed by Meier as a first diameter section 28 of a coil 14) corresponds to the claimed first elastic part, and the other side of the coil of Meier (disclosed by Meier as a third diameter section 32 of the coil 14) corresponds to the claimed second elastic part. However, Meier discloses that pitches of the first diameter section 28 and the third diameter section 32 are the same. See, for example, Figs. 9 and 9A. Further, there is no disclosure in Meier that the pitches of the first diameter section 28 and the third diameter section 32 are different. Thus, the first diameter section 28 and the third diameter section 32 of Meier do not correspond respectively to the claimed first and second elastic part of independent claim 1.

Additionally, in the rejection of claim 14, on page 6, the Office Action states that “there is no pattern/direction described on how to compare the pitches of these two elastic parts; for instance, from left to right of both elastic pieces shows that these are clearly different, while from inside to outside, these pieces appear to be the same; this has been interpreted to be former, however, and meets the claim limitation.” However, it is respectfully submitted that the predetermined pitches of the first elastic part “t1” and the predetermined pitches of the second

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elastic part “t2” are different from each other whether they are looked at from left to right or from inside to outside. See, for example, Figs. 11 and 12 and paragraph 61 of the present application.

Therefore, Tack and Meier, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least the claimed features that the predetermined pitches of the first elastic part and the predetermined pitches of the second elastic part are different, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Tack and Meier should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 15-21 are allowable over Tack and Meier at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

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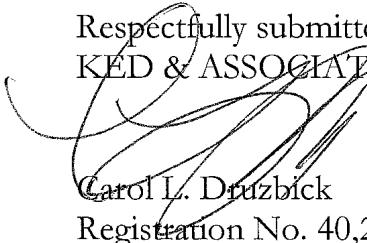
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### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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